

Appendix A: Library Exhibition Assignment

Library Exhibition Assignment

30 pts

English 150: Introduction to Literary Analysis

Sarah Wilma Watson

Using Aphra Behn's *Oroonoko* (1688) as a starting point, we will work together to create an exhibition at the newly renovated Lutnick Library. The exhibition is tentatively entitled "Crossing Borders – Slavery and Abolition (1688-1865)" and will open in March 2020.

Each member of the class will produce two "Item Label" (200 words each) and one "Context Label" (400-500 words). We will work as a class to prepare an "Introduction Label" and a "Conclusion Label" that will frame the exhibition. Each member of the class is required to attend three Library Sessions (all held during class time) during which we will work as a group to brainstorm and organize the conceptual and physical layout of the exhibition. You will also be expected to visit Special Collections once outside of class to work with your chosen special collection items. We will prepare the exhibition gradually over the course of the semester:

1. First Visit to Haverford's Special Collections – Tues, Oct. 1st

During our first visit to Special Collections you will have the opportunity to browse through a number of items related to slavery and abolition. By the end of class, you will prepare a "wish list" of items you would be interested in working on and choose two for assignment 2 below.

2. Item Labels A & B – Draft due Oct 11th, Final due Oct 25th

Prepare a descriptive label for each of your special collection items (please identify your labels as "A" and "B" for convenience). These labels will be placed next to your items in the exhibition. Your labels should be concise (no more than 200 words each), clear, engaging, and aimed at a general audience. Please include an overview of the textual content as well as a physical description of the item. Feel free to draw attention to something specific about the item that you found especially interesting – this will capture your reader's attention. We will provide examples.

To prepare these labels you will need to visit the Special Collections Reading Room (open M-F 9-5) and request to see your items. I will provide a list of questions to guide your investigation. Feel free to take photos of your items as this may help you when you are preparing the label. We will review Item A labels in tutorial and you should apply feedback to both labels.

3. Oral Presentation on Item B – Tues, Oct. 22

During our second visit to Special Collections, you will deliver a five-minute oral presentation on one of your special collections items. The items will be out on display so you will have the opportunity to show your item to the class first-hand. During the presentation you should offer an

overview of the object and then draw your audience's attention to one or two features that you find particularly interesting. Your peers will have the opportunity to ask questions.

4. Third Library Visit – Thurs, Oct 24

During our third visit to Special Collections, we will visit the exhibition space and brainstorm the conceptual and physical layout of the exhibition. Before class, please read the item labels produced by your classmates and spend 30 minutes brainstorming how we might organize the exhibition.

5. The Context Label - Draft due Nov 1st, Final due Nov. 8th

Based on the organization we adopt for the exhibition, we will prepare 12 context labels that will serve to frame various sections of the exhibition. You will each prepare one label of about 400 words. Or, if it is useful for the exhibition organization, you will work in small groups to prepare larger labels. Preparing these labels will involve performing secondary research into topics such as the Slave Trade, Abolition Literature, and Quaker Involvement in Abolition.

6. The Introduction and Conclusion Labels – Nov. 14th (In-class)

We will write the opening and closing label of the exhibition collaboratively. Questions we might consider include: What are the goals of the exhibition? What are the overarching themes of the exhibition? What does the exhibition seek to communicate to its audience?

7. Exhibition Installation - Optional

The exhibition will be installed in February 2020. When the installation time has been chosen, I will send you an email inviting you to participate in the installation process if you wish.

8. Exhibition Opening - Optional

There will be an exhibition opening event in March 2020. I encourage you to attend this event! Hopefully a “panel” of 2-3 students will speak for a few minutes about the experience of putting together the exhibition. Please let me know if you are interested in doing this.

Appendix B: Guiding Questions for Special Collections Visit

Visit to Special Collections #1 – Tues. Oct. 1st

English 150: Introduction to Literary Analysis

Sarah Wilma Watson

Today you will have the opportunity to browse through a number of special collection items related to slavery and abolition. As you explore, consider the following questions and begin to make a “wish list” of items you might want to explore further.

- What items do you find interesting and why?
- What do you notice about the **physical appearance** of the items? What types of items do you see? Bound Books? Maps? Loose Paper? Photographs?
- What do you notice about the **content** of the items? What kinds of information do the items communicate? How do they use text or images to convey information to a reader/viewer?
- Who do you think may have been the intended **audience** for these various items? Do any of the items show signs of use?